3. (Amended) The highly weather-resistant magnet powder according to Claim 2, wherein the particles of said Sm-Fe-N alloy powder are uniformly coated with a zinc film before being coated with said phosphate film.

4. (Amended) The highly weather-resistant magnet powder according to Claim 1, wherein said phosphate coating film is a composite composed of iron phosphate and another phosphate and comprises iron phosphate in an Fe/rare earth element atomic ratio of 8 or more.

5. (Amended) A resin composition for bonded magnets, comprising, as the ingredient present in the largest amount by weight, a highly weather-resistant magnet powder comprising a rare-earth element, wherein particles of said magnet powder comprise uniform coating with a phosphate film to a thickness of 5 to 100 nm on the average.

6. (Amended) The resin composition for bonded magnets according to Claim 5, wherein said magnet powder comprising iron and a rare earth element is an alloy powder selected from the group consisting of Nd-Fe-B and Sm-Fe-N powder.

7. (Amended) The resin composition for bonded magnets according to Claim 6, wherein the particles of said Sm-Fe-N alloy powder are uniformly coated with a zinc film before being coated with said phosphate film.

A1 Cont'd

8. (Amended) The resin composition for bonded magnets according to Claim 5, wherein said phosphate coating film is a composite composed of iron phosphate and another phosphate and comprises iron phosphate in an Fe/rare earth element atomic ratio of 8 or more.

A2

10. (Amended) The highly weather-resistant iron-based magnet powder according to claim 4, wherein the magnet powder is formed as a compacted magnet by compacting the highly weather-resistant magnet powder to an apparent density of 85% or more of the intrinsic density.

Please add new claims 13 and 14 as follows:

13. (New) The resin composition for bonded magnets according to claim 5, wherein the resin composition is formed as a bonded magnet.

A3

14. (New) The resin composition for bonded magnets according to claim 8, wherein the resin composition is formed as a bonded magnet.